

Iowa Autism Council Meeting Draft Minutes
September 10, 2014
Meeting minutes taken by Beth Buehler-Sapp

Present: Steve Muller, Theresa Croonquist, Rachel Heiss, Laura Larkin, James Curry, Steve Johnson, Matthew O'Brien, Jeffrey Jennings, Angela Logsdon, Tara Underwood-Levin, Mary Jackson, Wendy Trotter, and Beth Buehler-Sapp.

Guests: Erika Hertel, Leslie Huber, and Peggy Swails from Child Health Specialty Clinics @UIHC RAP Program

On Conference Phone: Jan Turbes, Lin Wessels. **On Polycom:** Frank Kohler

Absent: Becky Harker, Alyson Beytien, Jim Mumford, Andrew Waldschmitt, Laura Larkin and Sean Casey.

Meeting was called to order by Steve Muller at 10:15. Meeting attendees went around the table and gave introductions of themselves. Steve Muller read an e-mail from Josh Cobbs stating his resignation.

Meeting attendees reviewed the meeting minutes and corrections were noted. James Curry made a motion to approve the minutes and Matthew O'Brien seconded the motion.

Adults with Autism Challenging Behavior Workgroup Update: This workgroup held a series of meeting to discuss specialized housing, well trained professionals, community care, Number of Psychologists and BCBA's, and medical support programs.

Peer Support is another program that could be helpful to some individuals.

Steve asked Matt about Telehealth and how it's working. Matt commented as follows:

"Everything needs to be upfront, setting up a good program and getting a reduction in problem behavior."

"It takes a lot of money up-front to get programming set up."

There was discussion within the group as to why there is a high turnover in staffing regarding services and supports to this population. A consensus was reached that the investment in or pay scale for the majority of folks working in this field needs to be higher in order to encourage folks to be able to maintain longevity working in this field.

Steve mentioned that an example of this is the Woodward State Hospital whose pay and benefits scale lends to attracting and retaining (for instance) a 20 year veteran.

James Curry asks "What is Sufficient Training?" "What training is needed?" and "What is the cost?"

Matt O'Brien comments, "At minimum wage no one is looking to stay in this job."

It is a challenge to move people with Autism into community settings. To find the right physical environment with a low risk factors for obstacles.

Jeffrey Jennings brought up the recent 2nd shooting in Missouri which involved a person with mental illness being shot and killed. While this person was interacting with law enforcement the question this evokes is "Would incident like this be handled better if law enforcement had training / a better knowledge of how to deal with situations involving individuals with mental disabilities. Multiple philosophies exist for how to deal with such situations, holistic, organic, and silo formula.

Steve Johnson told the group that Magellan Mental Health now has available at no cost to their providers a web based training mental health training they can access.

There is new DSP training similar to BCBA training. The training has many parts but not all are equally used.

Matt O'Brien talked about the Challenging Behavior Services Grant which has provided funding used to train challenging behavior staff in the AEAs and that this has been going great. "A similar model would maybe be good for community providers and programs."

Steve Muller asked Rachel Heiss, "If there was a grant available to be used to identify more providers licensed by the Iowa Association of Psychologists would you be willing to put together a list of training/providers that could be presented to some legislators and others who might want this list. Steve also asked Matt O'Brien if he would be willing to present with Rachel to Matt Wienes who is the Medicaid Establisher. Rachel and Matt will e-mail their schedule information to Steve and he will get a meeting set-up with Matt.

Matt stated, "It's important to get guidance and feedback to see what DHS will accept. It's not worth a lot of time spent if DHS will not support. Matt also stated, "If and ID diagnosis is wanted after the client has turned 18 then sufficient documentation will be required to establish prior condition.

James Curry asked, "When do we start preparing legislators for topics to be addressed and where we think the obstacles are?"

Updates were given on the Autism Support Program. There have been 22 application received to date. Of these 22 applicants, 11 are receiving services and 2 are pending. For the remaining 9 they were ineligible due to already receiving Medicaid or other insurance coverage or being beyond the age limit for eligibility. As of the end of July, \$13,000 had been spent on claims.

This is the 2nd year for this legislative program with \$2 million allocated in the 1st year and \$3 million allocated in the 2nd year. Due to the slow start of people knowing about the grant's existence, a decision was made to roll-over the remainder of the 1st year allocated funds so that the total \$5 million is available over the course of the 2 years. This would provide up to \$36,000 per year for 2 years to pay for ABA therapy services for any eligible individual.

Steve Johnson spoke about Telehealth. He said "As long as treatment was clinically appropriate, Magellan could authorize today." This would be a big benefit in rural areas where clients have to travel an hour or more to where a provider is available.

Implications of the new CMS Directive

Leslie Huber from RAP @ UIHC gave the following update: Until recently, Jennifer Vermeer was the State Medical Director. Now with that position vacant and an acting designee it's impossible to predict a direction. Next week RAP staff will be meeting with the interim State Medical Director and Sally Nadalski who is a Well-known advocate will be there also.

Iowa Medicaid Enterprise and the Center for Medicaid Services are working towards a State Plan Amendment through Early and Periodic Screening Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) .

There was a recent Employment Conference and it went well.

The University of Iowa was awarded a new HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) Grant. This is funded during the recently renewed Autism Cares of 2014 Act which provides 1.3 billion in federal funding for ASD and extends through FY2019. The RAP staff from UIHC provided a handout to inform people about the HRSA funded grant.

The main purpose is to increase awareness and improve screening regarding an ASD/DD diagnosis. Between September 1, 2014 and August 1, 2016 they expect to spend \$591, 436.00 through their 13 Regional Centers, Satellite offices, and Administrative Services.

This handout details the following:

- MCHB (Maternal Child Health Bureau)
- Autism Cares Act Renewed
- Activities of the Combating Autism Act Initiative
- Purpose of the ASD/DD Grant
- Key Grant Elements
- Project Aim
- Major Focus Area
- Grantee Requirements
- System of Care
- System of Care: Children with ASD/DD at the Center
- Logic Model
- IA-ASD/DD Framework
- Goals
- Methodologies
- Coordination
- Evaluation
- Project Organization Chart
- 5 Targeted Communities
- Principal Investigator
- Questions

Jan Turbes asked, “Will you be working with the AEA’s?” Peggy Swails from the RAP program said yes and that they are working with Early Access as one of the stakeholders.

Angela Logsdon stated, “When you get a diagnosis, you need information right away to help you understand.”

James asked the group to identify some action steps that we want to recommend to the legislature in our 2014 Priorities to the Governor’s office which is due by December 12th:

- Monitoring CMS and the State Plan Amendment
- Implications of DSM5 changes and the reporting priorities
- Autism Support Program
- Review Income Guidelines at 400% of poverty level
- Review age eligibility requirements which currently end at age 9
- Review co-pay or co-insurance requirements
- Address service needs for adults with challenging behaviors in community settings.

While Laura Larkin was absent from this meeting it was agreed that we will have her review the above List to give her input on these suggested legislative priorities since she is so familiar with DHS regulations, direction, etc.

The group seems to feel that there is a training issue regarding Challenging Behavior and will convene a Challenging Behavior workgroup. Lin Wessels will work on this.

James Curry made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Matt O’Brien seconded the motion.

